United Nations S/2006/438

Security Council

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27 June 2006

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Letter dated 23 June 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1689 (2006) concerning Liberia. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Council requested me to renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts re-established according to paragraph 9 of resolution 1647 (2005) for an additional six months.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that I have re-appointed the following persons to serve on the Panel of Experts for a period ending 21 December 2006:

1. Mr. Arthur Gregory Blundell (Canada)
2. Mr. Damien Callamand (France)
3. Mr. Caspar Fithen (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
4. Mr. Tommy Garnett (Sierra Leone)
5. Mr. Rajiva Bhushan Sinha (India)

I have also designated Mr. Arthur Blundell to serve as the Chairman of the Panel of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-40572 (E) 270606

United Nations A/60/908–S/2006/439

General Assembly
Security Council

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27 June 2006

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 26 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 June 2006, addressed to you by Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful, if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-40786 (E) 290606

Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 16 June 2006, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/60/894-S/2006/416), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" and of the "flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia", and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating to itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. Following the rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the United Nations settlement plan, the international community in general and the United Nations in particular is expecting positive moves from the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrating its political will and sincerity for a fair and just settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2006/440

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 27 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters of 24, 25 and 30 May 2006, I am writing to provide you with an update regarding Australia's current security assistance to Timor-Leste, provided following the request by the Government of Timor-Leste for such assistance on 24 May.

Approximately 2,650 Australian Defence Force personnel are now deployed in Timor-Leste. Approximately 200 Australian Federal Police are working with the Australian Defence Force to provide security and are also contributing to assessments on future law enforcement requirements. Our security forces continue to work in conjunction with forces from Malaysia, New Zealand and Portugal to address security problems in accordance with the requirements of the Government of Timor-Leste. An agreed protocol has been put in place to formalize cooperation arrangements between international forces.

The international security forces, working together and in close cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste, have secured the area around Dili. Humanitarian agencies are moving freely in the city, and access to the districts outside Dili has increased. The overall security situation has improved but remains tense. Dili continues to experience sporadic outbreaks of disorder, arson and looting and opportunistic violence, due predominantly to communal gang conflict. Fighting between the Armed Forces of Timor-Leste (F-FDTL) and Timorese Nationalist Party (PNTL) has ceased, though tensions between the two forces remain. Progress has been made in securing the weapons of rebel military groups. The Joint Task Force (JTF) has increased its presence in key areas outside Dili to create a security environment conducive to rebel groups surrendering their weapons.

Australia will continue supporting the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste and relevant United Nations agencies in their ongoing efforts to fulfil their current mandated tasks and provide security for United Nations property. Australia will also continue to provide assistance to the United Nations in securing crime scenes and preserving evidence pertaining to the incidents on 28-29 April, 23, 24 and 25 May and other related events or issues which contributed to the recent violence. Those actions will assist the special inquiry commission that will be established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to carry out its work.

06-40768 (E) 280606

I have written in similar terms to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**

United Nations S/2006/440*

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 27 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

06-40768* (E) 300606

I have written in similar terms to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**

United Nations S/2006/441

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2006
English
Original: French

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. This report is submitted in compliance with the request of the Security Council contained in the statement issued by its President on 26 September 2001 (S/PRST/2001/25), whereby the Council members requested me to keep them regularly informed about the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). This regular report covers the period from January to June 2006.

II. Political situation

2. The political situation was marked by the emergence of internal crises in several major political parties, the work of the National Assembly's first regular session of 2006 and a number of peace and security initiatives.

3. Since the 2005 presidential and legislative elections, some political parties have been undergoing crises of leadership and reorganization. BONUCA, within the framework of its mandate and its conciliation efforts, has been encouraging the political parties to engage in dialogue and to maintain their unity given the vital role they play in the proper functioning and consolidation of the Central African Republic's fragile democracy. Political parties are also involved in efforts to meet the country's socio-economic, security and humanitarian challenges.

4. The National Assembly was in session from 1 March to 30 May 2006, during which time it adopted a large number of draft laws. These included a draft law authorizing the ratification of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court in the territory of each State party; a draft law authorizing the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights concerning the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; a draft law authorizing the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; a draft law authorizing the ratification of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption; and a draft law

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amending the ordinance on the establishment, organization and operation of the country's High Council for Communication.

5. The National Assembly also adopted a draft law on the organization and operation of the National Mediation Council of the Central African Republic. Prior to the consideration of this text, BONUCA organized a day of discussions with parliamentarians on the role of the Mediator of the Republic, the structure of the National Mediation Council and the procedure for appointing its members. This exercise enabled the lawmakers to settle differences of opinion on the structure of the Council and the manner of appointing its members.

6. With regard to national peace initiatives, the Panel of the Wise, in partnership with the Office, carried out a number of awareness-raising campaigns to reduce tension and restore calm in the wake of abuses committed in Bangui and in the northern part of the country. On 3 April 2006, Central African women's groups held a march for the restoration of peace and security. With support from BONUCA, youth groups also held an important march for peace in the Central African Republic. The Head of State took that opportunity to announce the forthcoming organization of a national dialogue on peace and security. Opposition political parties indicated their willingness to take part in a political dialogue, in which public authorities and the armed opposition would also be involved.

III. Socio-economic and humanitarian situation

7. Since the beginning of the year, the social situation has continued to be marked by strikes in the education, health and justice sectors. Economic activity grew slowly as a result of soaring oil prices, among other factors. The real growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) was 2.2 per cent, as against 1.3 per cent in 2004. The trends observed in the first three months of 2006 show increased output in the main export sectors (particularly timber and diamonds) and in manufacturing. Budget revenues exceeded the target figure by 17 per cent, thanks to an improvement in tax revenues that was largely attributable to an increase in the value added tax rate from 18 per cent to 19 per cent and to the rise in the price of petroleum products.

8. Current expenditure, on the other hand, was higher than planned because of a wage and salary increase. In any event, the Central African Government is predicting a growth rate of 3 per cent for 2006. This recovery will remain fragile, however, since GDP growth will continue to depend on public expenditure levels and on timber and mineral exports. The Central African authorities will have to continue and intensify their efforts to put public finances on a sounder footing and to rein in expenditure.

9. The operation to verify the names on the civil-service payroll and on the register of pension recipients represented a significant step forward in achieving savings for the payment of wages and pensions. However, these savings will be insufficient to cover back wages and compensation for State officials and agents.

10. Vigorous reforms should be introduced with respect to transparency in public management, the administration of justice and anti-corruption efforts, with a view to strengthening public finances and paying off external debt so that international cooperation will resume. In this connection, the satisfactory implementation of the

economic programme for 2006, currently being carried out with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the form of emergency post-conflict assistance, should bring the Central African Republic closer to the conclusion of an agreement under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility.

11. The humanitarian situation has deteriorated sharply over the past few months, particularly in the north-western part of the country, where civilian populations have left their villages and taken refuge in the fields or forests or across the border in Chad as a result of the insecurity created by the armed rebel movements, attacks by robbers who set up roadblocks and reprisals by the armed forces. It is difficult to gain access to these populations, in part because they live far from the areas where services are provided and because there are no civilian authorities in many places.

12. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee estimates that more than 30,000 people from the subprefectures of Paoua, Markounda, Batangafo and Kabo are in need of emergency assistance in the form of basic health care, food, water and sanitation, as well as protection. The provision of seeds for subsistence farming will also be necessary, given the approach of the rainy season, which is the period between harvests in this area.

13. Despite the prevailing insecurity in these areas, basic health care and food and non-food assistance was provided to the population by the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through international NGOs operating in the Paoua and Markounda areas bordering on Chad. The international community's response is still insufficient, having met only 14.17 per cent of the existing needs, and is not commensurate with the severe humanitarian crisis taking shape in the Central African Republic. A review of the 2006 Consolidated Appeals Process is under way with a view to better meeting the needs of populations living in insecure conditions in the northern part of the country.

14. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Central African Republic, which covers the period 2004-2006, has remained the strategic frame of reference for United Nations action. The country team has also prepared and validated, with the Central African authorities, a further UNDAF for the period 2007-2011. Strengthening democratic governance, respect for human rights, post-conflict recovery, poverty reduction and efforts to combat HIV/AIDS are the main areas of cooperation. In terms of governance and crisis prevention, UNDP has continued its activities to reintegrate former combatants, in cooperation with the World Bank.

15. The local UNHCR office has continued to register urban refugees in Bangui; such refugees now number 5,134. On 1 February 2006, the Central African Republic, the Sudan and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement on the repatriation of Sudanese refugees, making it possible to begin returning them. Thus far, 2,115 refugees, out of a total of 12,000 living in Mboki in the south-eastern part of the Central African Republic, have been repatriated. On 15 April 2006, UNHCR suspended its operations because of the Government's decision to close its border with the Sudan.

16. With respect to food security, WFP has continued its efforts to meet the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable population groups, particularly women, children under the age of 5 and persons living with HIV/AIDS. It has also pursued its school feeding programmes. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has extended the distribution of seeds and tools to vulnerable farmers and has supported the development of school vegetable gardens. UNICEF has stepped up its efforts to improve the quality of education and has extended its child survival and development programme in the Central African Republic.

17. WHO has focused on strengthening the national health information system and epidemiological surveillance. Together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), it has continued to assist victims of post-conflict sexual violence and to support the emergency obstetric and neonatal care system. The United Nations system has intensified its HIV/AIDS prevention activities and has sought to involve the population in those efforts. The Central African Republic has the highest seroprevalence rate in central Africa and the tenth highest rate worldwide. This situation poses a serious threat to its development.

IV. Human rights situation

18. The overall human rights situation has clearly deteriorated since the beginning of the year. There have been many abuses and violations of the right to life. In particular, there have been many reports of arbitrary or summary execution; torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; arbitrary arrest and detention; violation of time limits on police custody; and restriction of the freedom of movement. The execution of Staff Sergeant Sanzé early in the year by members of the Presidential Guard; the assassination of the mayor of Bossangoa, for which rebels have claimed responsibility; the killing of the mayor of the municipality of Koron-Mpoko and his son by unidentified armed individuals; and the murder of two local physicians on official mission in the northern part of the country are tragic examples of the violations perpetrated in the Central African Republic.

19. In the "Sanzé/Kapita" case, in particular, it should be recalled that, on the night of 2-3 January 2006, in the Boy-Rabe neighbourhood of the fourth arrondissement of Bangui, Lieutenant Yango Kapita was fatally shot by Staff Sergeant Sanzé when the lieutenant and his men went to the latter's home after an altercation at a bar. Following this crime, Sergeant Sanzé was taken to BONUCA, where he spent the night. At the request of the government procurator, the next morning he was handed over to a criminal investigation officer appointed by the procurator to continue the proceedings.

20. Both the government procurator and the criminal investigation officer assured BONUCA that Staff Sergeant Sanzé would be protected until his trial. After a hearing by the criminal investigation officer, he was incarcerated in the Research and Investigation Section of the National Gendarmerie. He was subsequently removed and summarily executed by members of the Presidential Guard who had been close to Lieutenant Yango Kapita. BONUCA has been informed that the government investigation being carried out by the Director-General of the Gendarmerie is still under way.

21. On 14 and 15 February 2006, the BONUCA Human Rights Section participated in a seminar-workshop to validate the report of a study on education for

citizenship and peace in the Central African Republic. The participants strongly recommended, among other things, that education in the areas of human rights, citizenship and peace should be a Government priority and that human rights modules should be integrated into school curricula. The BONUCA human rights branch offices in Bouar and Bossangoa (located, respectively, 450 km north-west and 305 km north of Bangui) held workshops in a number of provincial towns on civil and political rights, women's rights, the rights of the child, and women and decision-making authority. In the coming weeks, the activities of the BONUCA Human Rights Section will be further decentralized through the opening of a third regional human rights office in Bambari.

22. The BONUCA Information Unit continued to conduct outreach work and to disseminate information on the Office's activities. It broadcast radio programmes on human rights and the ideals of peace. As part of the Office's activities to promote respect for human rights and to create a climate of peace, the Unit organized panel discussions and awareness-raising campaigns in Bangui and in provincial towns on the theme "Central Africans want peace". It also continued to provide capacity-building services for media professionals, both public and private.

V. Military and security situation

23. The security situation in the Central African Republic remains precarious and worrisome. Apart from some night-time robberies, Bangui seems to be enjoying a lull in the violence thanks to Central African Armed Forces patrols, supported by members of the Multinational Force (FOMUC) of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). In more remote areas, however, particularly in the north, the security of civilian populations is undermined by abuses committed by armed gangs, "roadblockers" and rebels seeking to destabilize the country.

24. In January and February, the town of Paoua (500 km north of Bangui) was the scene of clashes between Central African Armed Forces soldiers and unidentified armed men. The attackers targeted public services: the police station, the gendarmerie station and the military base. The reaction by the regular forces gave rise to many abuses, forcing the local populations to leave their villages.

25. The Central African Government is faced with an armed rebellion, based in the northern part of the country, whose aim is to overthrow the regime of President François Bozizé. The rebellion includes four armed groups: the Union des Forces Républicaines (UFR) of Lieutenant Florian Ndjadder, a former Armed Forces officer; the Armée pour la Restauration de la République et la Démocratie (APRD), whose spokesman is Lieutenant Larma, a deserter from the Armed Forces recently arrested in Bangui; the Mouvement Patriotique pour la Restauration de la République Centrafricaine (MPRC) led by Stève Guéret, who has claimed responsibility for killing the mayor of Bossangoa; and the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (FDPC) of Abdoulaye Miskine, who was once a militiaman under former President Ange Félix Patassé and was previously considered to have close ties with Lieutenant Larma's APRD.

26. The members of these four movements, their sources of financing, the political support they may enjoy and their rear bases have not been positively identified. It may, however, be presumed that the Central African Republic/Cameroon/Chad tripartite initiative, which since December 2005 has authorized the three countries'

regular armies to cross their common borders in pursuing armed groups or roadblockers that are threatening their stability, is making it difficult for rebel groups to establish a long-term presence in the territory of any of the three countries or to use them as a rear base.

VI. Subregional situation

27. Since April 2006, rebels hostile to the regime of President Déby Itno have crossed through the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic to attack the forces of the Chadian National Army. On 25 and 26 April 2006, an Antonov 35 aircraft unloaded armed men and military equipment in the Central African locality of Tiringoulou in the north-eastern part of the country, thereby violating the Central African Republic's territorial integrity. The Central African Government has strongly objected to these repeated incursions and has closed its border with the Sudan. However, there is every indication that armed individuals have established a foothold in the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic.

28. The country's security situation remains very volatile and, in some respects, highly dependent on the situation in neighbouring Chad and Sudan. The Central African Republic is a victim of the tension between Chad and the Sudan, which accuse each other of supporting rebels hostile to their respective regimes, even though the provision of such support is prohibited under the Tripoli Agreement signed by the two leaders on 8 February 2006. This atmosphere of mutual distrust and suspicion has paved the way for arms proliferation in the subregion, particularly in the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic, which the Central African Armed Forces have been unable to control for lack of adequate manpower and logistics. The Central African Government is understandably concerned about this state of affairs and is requesting support from bilateral and multilateral partners to help it carry out activities to promote the return of refugees and to revive production in this part of the national territory. A subregional approach should therefore be taken to stabilizing the situation in the Central African Republic, pending the effective restructuring of the Armed Forces and the enhancement of their capacity as a means of helping Central Africans to better control the whole of the national territory.

29. The restructuring of the Armed Forces is progressing slowly. While three battalions have completed their training and a fourth is currently being trained, the Armed Forces are not in a position to secure the national territory, even with support from FOMUC. The Office's military team has taken part in training workshops. The Civilian Police Section has continued to monitor the country's security situation, both in Bangui and in the provinces. It monitors and evaluates criminal investigators newly trained by the Directorate-General of the Central African Police in partnership with the Office and French technical cooperation experts. The Section is currently involved in the work of the technical committee in charge of drawing up a draft restructuring programme for the Central African Police. It has organized a series of training internships for the police and the National Gendarmerie, including one on the maintenance of law and order, in which 61 police officers participated, and another for the training of 43 criminal investigation officers.

VII. Comments

30. The emergence of rebel movements in the northern part of the country, the situation in Chad and tension between that country and the Sudan seriously threatened the relative stability that had prevailed in the Central African Republic since my last report. The area where the borders of the three countries intersect could quickly become one fraught with turmoil likely to attract more armed groups, mercenaries and rebels willing to participate in any action likely to destabilize the countries of the subregion. As a subregional force, FOMUC continues to play a key role in efforts to make the country more secure. I therefore welcome the European Commission's recommendation to the European Union that it continue to finance FOMUC until 30 June 2007. I call upon other partners to support FOMUC in order to increase its strength and thus help the Government to tackle insecurity in the country.

31. While the Central African authorities must take primary responsibility for the stability of the country, the development of a subregional approach appears vital given the current situation along the country's borders. Such an approach should involve, at best, all the States of the Central African subregion and, at a minimum, all the country's neighbours, including Chad. I will therefore have to continue my contacts, through my Special Representative, with leaders of the subregion in order to help them in their efforts to achieve lasting stability in their region with the support of the international community. In that regard, I invite the international community to intensify its efforts to make borders more secure, especially those between Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan, in order to discourage any attempts by armed movements to settle temporarily or permanently in those countries, since such movements are a threat to the local populations and to refugees and displaced persons. Movements of armed groups in the northern part of the Central African Republic constitute a serious threat to the country's stability and to that of all its neighbours.

32. In order to build civil peace and democracy in the Central African Republic on a firm foundation of unity and national reconciliation, it is vital that the Government should engage in a permanent dialogue with all national social and political stakeholders. Such an approach would make it easier to seek appropriate, consensual and quick solutions to any issues of national concern facing the State. It is in this spirit that I urge President Bozizé to work towards promoting justice and respect for the rule of law, which are central to peace. I urge him to shed light on the serious human rights violations committed in recent months in his country and to put an end to impunity by bringing those responsible for the violations to justice.

33. The Central African Republic continues to suffer from the adverse impact of its political and military crises, its non-productive enterprises and its weak private sector. I therefore urge its bilateral and international partners to continue to support the Central African authorities in their efforts to improve public finances and governance with a view to signing as soon as possible an agreement with the international financial institutions under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility.

34. I would like to take this opportunity to once again hail the efforts that CEMAC member States have been making in support of the Central African authorities since the end of the electoral process. I would also like to pay tribute to the different

FOMUC contingents that have been making every effort to support the Central African armed forces in their efforts to maintain security and peace in the country.

35. I should like to pay a heartfelt tribute to my Special Representative, General Lamine Cissé, and to the staff of the entire United Nations system in the Central African Republic for their dedicated performance of their functions during this particularly difficult and challenging period.

United Nations S/2006/442

Security Council

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29 June 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. for the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué regarding Somalia issued by the meeting of the Ministerial Committee regarding Somalia, held at Khartoum on 22 June 2006 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Salma **Elfeki**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-41275 (E) 030706 030706

Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. for the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Communiqué issued by the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Somalia

Khartoum, 22 June 2006

In the context of implementing resolution No. 345 on support for Somalia, adopted on 29 March 2006 at the Summit of the League of Arab States in Khartoum, and at the initiative and kind invitation of the President of the Republic of the Sudan, Chairman of the current session of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States, the Ministerial Committee of the League of Arab States tasked with following up the situation in Somalia met under the chairmanship of President Omer Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan. President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed of the Somali Republic and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States attended the meeting, in which ministers and representatives of the member States participated.

The Committee conducted intensive consultations with the Somali Government and the Islamic Courts Union, leading to agreement concerning a number of elements that can be built on in order to create common ground.

Under the auspices of the Ministerial Committee on Somalia and with its participation, the first dialogue session was held between the two parties, who affirmed their determination to achieve a settlement that preserves Somalia's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and enables Somalis to rebuild State institutions and start the reconstruction process.

In that regard, the following principles were agreed:

1. To recognize the legitimacy of the current Somali Transitional Government;
2. To recognize the Islamic Courts Union;
3. To continue dialogue and talks without preconditions in a framework of mutual recognition;
4. To bring war criminals to justice;
5. To remain committed to the cessation of media and military campaigns;
6. To issue a joint call for peace;
7. To place dialogue on pending security and political issues on the agenda of forthcoming sessions and examine the possibility of forming technical committees to discuss and make proposals on such issues.

It was agreed that the next round of talks should continue in Khartoum on 15 July 2006.

The Committee appealed to the international community to provide rapid assistance to the Somali people and affirmed the determination of Arab States to contribute effectively to the restoration of security and stability, participate in the reconstruction efforts and call for the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The Committee thanked the Republic of the Sudan for its initiative in convening the Committee on Somalia and for hosting its meetings.

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Security Council

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28 June 2006

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 28 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, has today launched a major air and ground military assault on the Gaza Strip, threatening the lives of the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the area and causing the further deterioration and destabilization of the grave situation on the ground, which could have far-reaching impacts in terms of the stability of the region and thus on international peace and security.

After deploying thousands of troops in recent days along the southern border of the Gaza Strip, following the capture of an Israeli soldier on 25 June from a military outpost of the occupying forces on the Gaza border, the occupying Power has begun firing missiles at targets in Gaza from its warplanes and has been launching artillery from tanks on the ground that have pushed several kilometres into southern Gaza along with dozens of armoured vehicles and bulldozers. Collectively punishing and terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population, Israel, the occupying Power, has already caused the destruction of Gaza's only power station by air missile strike, cutting off electricity to the majority of the more than 1.3 million Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and cutting off water supplies to the civilian population as well, and has also bombed at least three bridges and a gasoline reservoir in the area. These attacks on the civilian infrastructure, in addition to the constant barrage of sonic booms by low-flying warplanes over civilian neighbourhoods and the closure of all border crossings into and out of Gaza, are deepening the humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people and causing extensive physical and environmental destruction on the ground with far-reaching detrimental consequences for the population.

The escalation of violence by the occupying Power and the incessant incitement by Israeli officials, including declarations of "immunity for no one", threats to assassinate Palestinian officials, and vows by the Israeli Prime Minister to

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take "extreme action", have generated widespread fear and panic among the Palestinian civilian population, causing hundreds of people to flee their homes, particularly in the Rafah area of the Gaza Strip, in search of safety. Clearly, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, already devastating, is being further exacerbated by the continuous bloodshed, destruction, crimes and terror being committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population, which is now being intensified under the pretext of pressuring the Palestinians that have captured the Israeli soldier to release him. In that regard, it should be highlighted that, even prior to the capture of the soldier of the occupying forces, Israeli officials had been issuing a series of threats regarding the intention to launch a major invasion of the Gaza Strip.

Further in that regard, it must be clearly stated that the Palestinian leadership, including President Mahmoud Abbas himself, has called for the captive Israeli soldier to be treated in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and has called for his safety. The Palestinian leadership has urged a diplomatic solution to the problem and has been exerting all efforts to that end, which are being undermined by this latest Israeli military aggression, underscoring the fact that Israel, the occupying Power, seeks only to address this issue and all other issues regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territory by exercising its military might and oppression against the Palestinian people held captive under its occupation as well as against their leadership.

The international community must exert urgent efforts to bring a halt to the Israeli military invasion of Gaza and a halt to the collective punishment and crimes being committed against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power with sheer impunity. In this regard, the Security Council, in upholding its main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, should take the necessary measures and should condemn the aggression and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease its attacks, withdraw its occupying forces and abide by its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in all of its actions vis-à-vis the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. Further in this regard, it must once more be reiterated that the defenceless Palestinian civilians under Israel's belligerent occupation are entitled under international law — just like all other civilians in situations of armed conflict — to protection, and measures should accordingly be taken to provide them with safety and security.

If action is not taken to address the current grave developments, the situation on the ground will only further destabilize, perpetuating the cycle of violence reignited by the occupying Power, worsening humanitarian conditions and civilian suffering in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and severely undermining ongoing Palestinian efforts to promote calm, stability and unity as well as the efforts of the international community, including the Quartet, to bring about a resumption of negotiations and to restart the peace process. We thus reiterate our appeal to the international community for urgent action to address the present crisis.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 248 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 June 2006 (A/ES-10/340-S/2006/432), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the

Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady-**Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/60/910–S/2006/444

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda items 12, 42, 84, 97, 107 and 108

Prevention of armed conflict

Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

General and complete disarmament

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 27 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, as a representative of the host country to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), to transmit the text of the Declaration of the Second Summit of the CICA (see annex), which was adopted in Almaty on 17 June 2006.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 42, 84, 97, 107 and 108 of the sixtieth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Declaration of the Second Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA);

Having met in Almaty for the 2nd CICA Summit at a time when the current situation all over the world, including Asia, requires close cooperation, continuous dialogue, comprehensive exchange of views, addressing new challenges and threats, facilitating prevention of conflicts, peaceful settlement of disputes and developing feasible Confidence Building Measures (CBMs);

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the norms and principles of international law;

Recognizing the close link between peace and security in Asia and in the other parts of the world;

Also reaffirming our commitment to the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, the Almaty Act, and the CICA Catalogue of CBMs as the basis for future co-operation;

Expressing our firm belief in the CICA process as a facilitator of constructive dialogue through interaction and Cams for promoting peace and development of our nations;

Underlining that a comprehensive approach to security includes military-political, economic, environmental and human dimensions, and therefore stressing the importance of developing and implementing CBMs in these fields;

Expressing confidence that enhancing dialogue and co-operation among the CICA Member States will lead to the improvement of security environment in Asia, resulting in a better future for our people,

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

I

1. We are convinced that multilateral co-operation, based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as well as in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States and in the Almaty Act is more necessary today than ever for maintaining regional and international peace and security. To this end, we will intensify our efforts to develop CICA as a forum for political dialogue through elaborating common approaches to security and co-operation on the basis of consensus.

2. We support the ongoing reform process of the UN system aimed at improving its ability to address full range of challenges of our time.

We also support Asia's candidacy for the post of the United Nations Secretary-General.

3. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states, pose threats to regional and international peace.

We call upon and continue to encourage all Member States who are parties to a dispute to settle this peacefully in conformity with principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

4. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there is no justification for terrorism. We are determined to enhance our efforts on national, regional and multilateral basis to combat this threat, which undermines the foundations of global peace and security. The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be comprehensive, consistent and avoid double standards.

Terrorism can not be and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We recognize the central role of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism.

We continue to encourage States, which have not yet done so, to become Party to the 13 International Conventions on Terrorism adopted within the framework of the United Nations. The task of creating a comprehensive legal instrument is yet to be fulfilled. In this regard we support continuation of efforts in the UN General Assembly on conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

5. We reaffirm that separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movement and entities. We reiterate that our territories shall not be used by any separatist movement and entities and we shall not establish any kinds of relations and communications with separatists and shall not render them any kind of assistance.

We reaffirm the right of people to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

6. Cognizant of the growing threat that transnational organized crime poses to the security and prosperity of our nations and by the linkage in some cases between transnational organized crime and international terrorism, we confirm the necessity and express readiness to strengthen cooperation in accordance with respective national laws in countering transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, financial crimes, including money-laundering, human trafficking and arms smuggling and to fight corruption.

7. We support international co-operation in combating illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. We call upon Member States to co-operate with each other in curbing drug trafficking.

We reiterate our readiness to actively take part in international efforts, aimed at elaboration and implementation of special programmes to help tackling unfavourable social, economic and difficult humanitarian situation, which facilitates the growth of illicit drug trafficking.

Member States reaffirm their commitment to fulfil the tasks set out in the Almaty Act in countering the drug trafficking.

8. We recognize that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery poses a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all states to fulfil their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation.

We call upon all States to co-operate in preventing proliferation of WMDs.

We also recognize the importance of the compliance by States with their obligations under the multilateral treaties to which they are a Party on the elimination of WMDs and promoting non-proliferation, and encourage all States to make contribution to the objectives of non-proliferation and elimination of WMDs.

We encourage efforts by all States to prevent terrorists and criminal groups from attempts to acquire WMDs and their means of delivery.

We remain committed to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world through concrete efforts to achieve this objective.

We reaffirm the inalienable rights of states to have access to nuclear technologies, materials and equipments and their use for peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant IAEA safeguards agreements. We strongly encourage efforts to ensure inviolability of nuclear facilities.

We encourage strengthening of co-operation with the IAEA in the sphere of nuclear safety.

We acknowledge the joint efforts of the countries of Central Asia to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. In this regard we encourage promotion of this initiative with a view to signing the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

9. We recognize that illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) continue to pose a serious threat, inter alia, to peace and stability. To this end we reaffirm our readiness and willingness to implement the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trafficking in SALW in all its aspects as well as relevant provisions of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

We urge support for current international, regional and national efforts to com and prevent the illicit transfer of man-portable air defence systems and unauthori access to and use of such weapons.

10. We emphasize that since First CICA Summit of 2002 in Almaty, Asia witnessed rapid economic growth. Our shared interest in developing the CICA proc has opened up new possibilities to increase trade, economic and environmental operation for achieving sustainable development of our nations.

11. We recognize that energy supply security is one of the priority issues on international agenda. Consequently, dialogue and cooperation among producer consumer states have become all the more important. Therefore, underlining the that energy security is an indispensable part of economic and social security as wel sustainable development, we invite the relevant parties to contribute to energy secu and to further enhance dialogue and cooperation on energy issues.

12. We are convinced that construction and development of transportation telecommunication networks as well as oil and gas pipelines are essential for promot investment opportunities and strengthening wide ranging co-operation among Members States in areas such as trade, economic, scientific, technical and energy operation.

We acknowledge that non-traditional threats and challenges have negative imp on the social and economic development. In this context we recognize that spread infectious fatal diseases, including HIV/AIDS and Avian influenza, poses seri challenges to the achievement of the development goals. We call on the Member Sta to strengthen co-operation, co-ordination and interaction in order to build and prom capacity for dealing with emergency situations in the sphere of public health.

13. We recognize that development, peace and human rights reinforce complement each other and are inseparable.

We also recognize that facilitating inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue partnerships aimed at promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at b national and international levels will be our guiding principles in the conduct of relations.

We reaffirm the importance of respect for cultural diversity and specificities of societies.

We also note with appreciation the announcement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the establishment of the "Alliance of Civilizations", as well as the establishment of the Alliance of Civilizations High-Level Group of Eminent Persons and express interest in the outcome of this initiative.

We note that in a globalized world development of countries depends also on the progress achieved in the field of education, particularly by improving the literacy level and quality of education of our peoples. We therefore confirm the necessity to increase friendly contacts and cooperation of states in the field of education.

14. We emphasize the need to promote tourism to revive the centuries old traditions of the Great Silk Way used to unite and facilitate strengthening of relations among peoples.

II

15. We emphasize that the CICA process has been steadily moving forward enhancing co-operation among the Member States, with international organizations and other States.

16. During the period since the 1st Almaty CICA Summit of June 4th, 2002, most of the tasks, which pursued the goal of further development and strengthening of the CICA, have practically been realized.

17. Our collective political will has enabled the CICA process to continue to develop.

18. We note with satisfaction progress achieved in elaborating the implementation of CBMs in economic, environmental and human dimensions as well as in addressing new challenges and threats.

19. We commend the role of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the Chairman of the Conference in strengthening dialogue and development of the CICA process.

20. We shall continue with our efforts to move forward the CICA process to achieve our shared objectives on the basis of consensus.

21. We note with satisfaction the establishment of the CICA Secretariat on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is an important milestone in the development of the CICA.

III

22. We are pleased to note an increasing interest in the CICA. In this regard, we welcome accession of the Kingdom of Thailand in 2004 and the Republic of Korea in 2006 as full members.

IV

23. We decide to mark 5th October as the CICA Day to commemorate the initiation of the idea of convening the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1992.

V

24. We decide to hold the 3rd CICA Summit in 2010.

VI

25. We believe that the CICA process has moved forward through the implementation of tasks assigned by the First CICA Summit. This Declaration is reflective of our will to take the CICA process ahead by continuing to work towards building an atmosphere of confidence and trust and enhancing co-operation in the region.

Almaty, June 17, 2006